

## News Release

## OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Charleston Man Arrested on Child Pornography Charge**

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of Mark Lawrence Richard Girard (DOB: 1985) of Charleston, South Carolina, on one (1) charge connected to sexual exploitation of minors. The City of Charleston Police Department, a member of the state's ICAC Task Force, made the arrest. The United States Department of Homeland Security Homeland Security Investigations (Child Investigation Exploitation Unit – HSI) assisted in the investigation and arrest.

Investigators state Girard possessed child pornography at his residence. A search warrant was served and Girard was arrested on October 16, 2015. He is charged with one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, third degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.